

March 22, 1999  
Volume 88 Issue 62  
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3 AGAINST THE GRAIN  
4 ENGINEERING ETHICS  
6 CBC IN CRISIS  
8 ELIMINATION OF OAC

CONTENTS

## What the Hell Are You Eating, Anyway?

BIOTECH ACTION MONTRÉAL DISCUSSES GENETIC  
ENGINEERING AT MCGILL

BY ROBIN TURNER

**P**esticides. Herbicides. The weird chemicals that our food is bathed in in the name of longer shelf life and higher profit, are old news. For years we've been aware that what you see is not necessarily what you get in the produce department of your local grocery store. But in this age of genetic manipulation, engineered crops like the New Leaf potato and Roundup Ready soybeans are giving consumers and scientists alike a scare. Genetic engineering, or "biotechnology," is the process of inserting gene sequences into species to improve them.

Last Thursday saw Biotech Action Montreal's first public panel discussion on the impact of genetic engineering on the well-being of consumers and the environment. Four scientists met with a filled Leacock 232 to try and confront the issues.

### Communion in Confusion

The biggest issue is the lack of knowledge available to the public about the side effects of tampering with the genetic sequence of our crops.

Tom Bureau, a McGill specialist in rice agriculture pointed out how there is very little regulation to force companies to publish experimental results in this field or even to do the studies in the first place. As well, he lamented the fact that there is increasingly little government funding to undertake these studies as a public initiative.

"Increasingly, the government and universities are recommending collaboration with corporations in all research ventures which leaves public consultation and the publication of facts out of process," said Bureau.

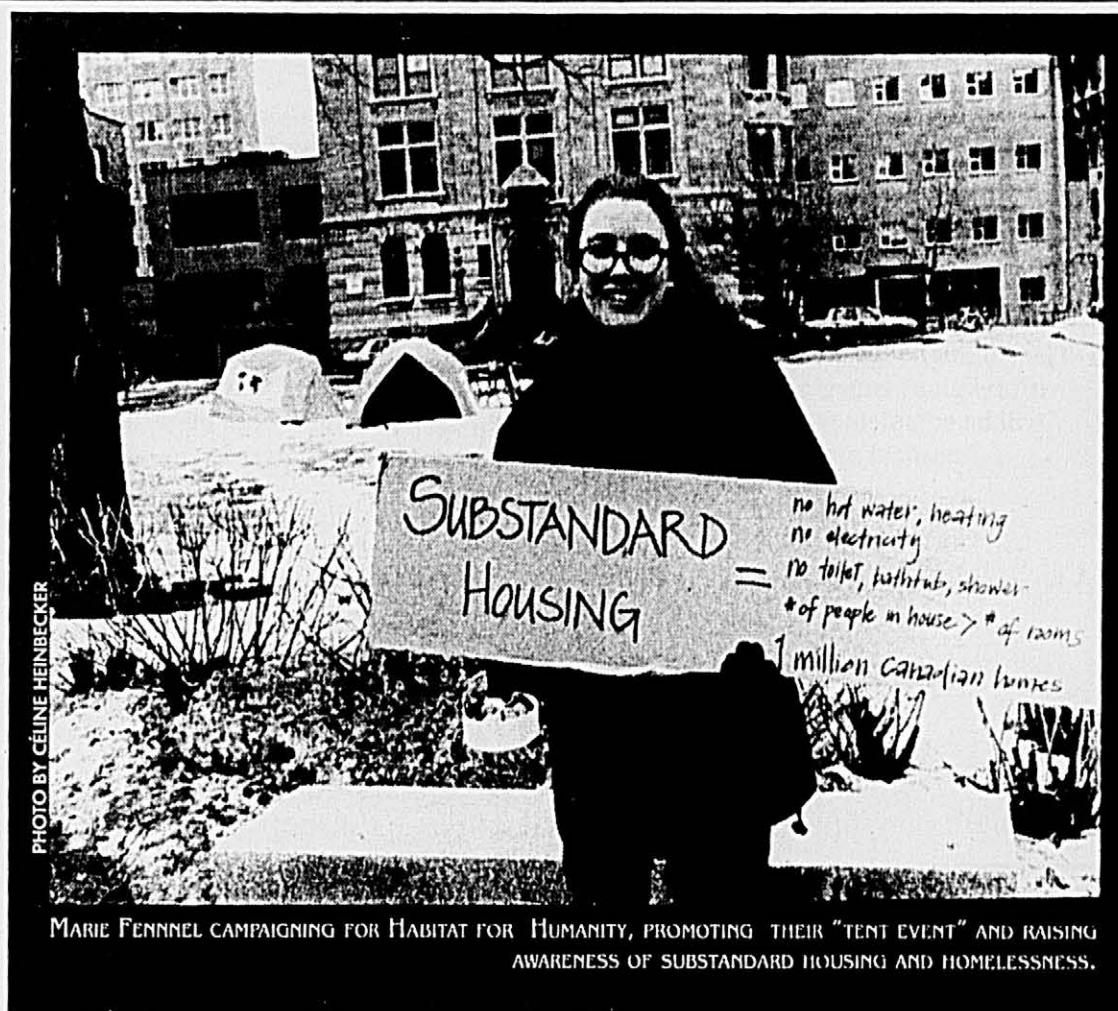
### Some of the Players

*Monsanto - Products: Newleaf potatoes and Roundup Ready soybeans.* Farmers have been using a bacteria called BT for over a hundred years as an organic pesticide. Being a bacteria, it would do its job and die when the sun came up, leaving no chemical residue on the plants. Now Monsanto has introduced the Newleaf potato that has genes from BT bacteria engineered directly into it. The bad news is that Monsanto itself has admitted that pests will create a resistance to BT within ten years. Whereas before farmers used BT as a last resort, using it only once or twice a season, the new potato will expose BT to pests constantly, allowing for quick development of resistance. Whereas before BT was a public resource that anyone could use, it will now be rendered useless, creating a further dependence on Monsanto's products and technology.

Roundup Ready soybeans and maize are engineered to be completely immune to the effects of the herbicide Roundup. A Roundup Ready crop is sprayed with Roundup, which destroys all plant life (weeds) except the crop itself. The crop in effect allows the farmer to use more herbicide than normal. Although this sounds pretty neat, it creates a dependence on the availability of both the crop and Roundup. And with this, as with all other genetically engineered crops, the long term side effects of Roundup or the engineered crop is unknown, and the legislation to enforce studies is non-existent.

The panel discussion brought to light some of the problems confronting the public. Many of the

(continued on page 5)



MARIE FENNEL CAMPAIGNING FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, PROMOTING THEIR "TENT EVENT" AND RAISING AWARENESS OF SUBSTANDARD HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS.

## Housing the Homeless McGILL'S HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CAMPS OUT IN THE COLD

BY JASON CHOW

**E**ven with the temperature hovering around zero, some still braved the cold and camped outside on the lawn to prove a point - and to support a cause.

The McGill Chapter of Habitat for Humanity held a tent event on the lawn in front of the MacDonald-Harrington Architecture building. The ten campers were raising awareness on homelessness and substandard housing.

Habitat for Humanity's mandate is to provide quality shelter to poor and homeless people who would otherwise be living either on the street or close to that situation. A Habitat for Humanity project two years ago in St. John's, Newfoundland, led to the establishment of the McGill chapter through Sherry Poon, who is now a McGill Architecture student. Earlier this year, Habitat for Hu-

manity began work in Montréal, in conjunction with Reno Depot, the One O' Clock Club in Westmount, and the Montreal Diet Dispensary (MDD).

The McGill chapter of Habitat for Humanity was founded primarily by Architecture students; it is now, however, composed of students from all faculties, and has also spread beyond McGill.

"It's part of a nation-wide event," said Karen Wan, director of Public Relations for the organization. "University of Waterloo and University of Alberta are doing the same thing."

Volunteers were also soliciting donations from students who were passing by. Money given would be going to the campus chapter and their ongoing projects.

Wan explained that the McGill chapter was helping refurbish the

MDD, a centre for pregnant women in poverty. She also added that during spring break, the group sent 16 of its members to Patterson, New Jersey to spend a week to help build four houses as part of a North American-wide collegiate challenge.

This spring, the Montreal chapter will be building its first home in St. Henri.

But for the McGill group, it has been hard to put their skills to action. "It has been hard getting projects," lamented Wan. "Montréal doesn't really know we exist."

The event was originally scheduled for both Thursday and Friday, but weather prevented the arduous campers from pitching tents on Thursday.

"Tents were flying all over the place," said Wan.

(continued on page 5)





# The Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University



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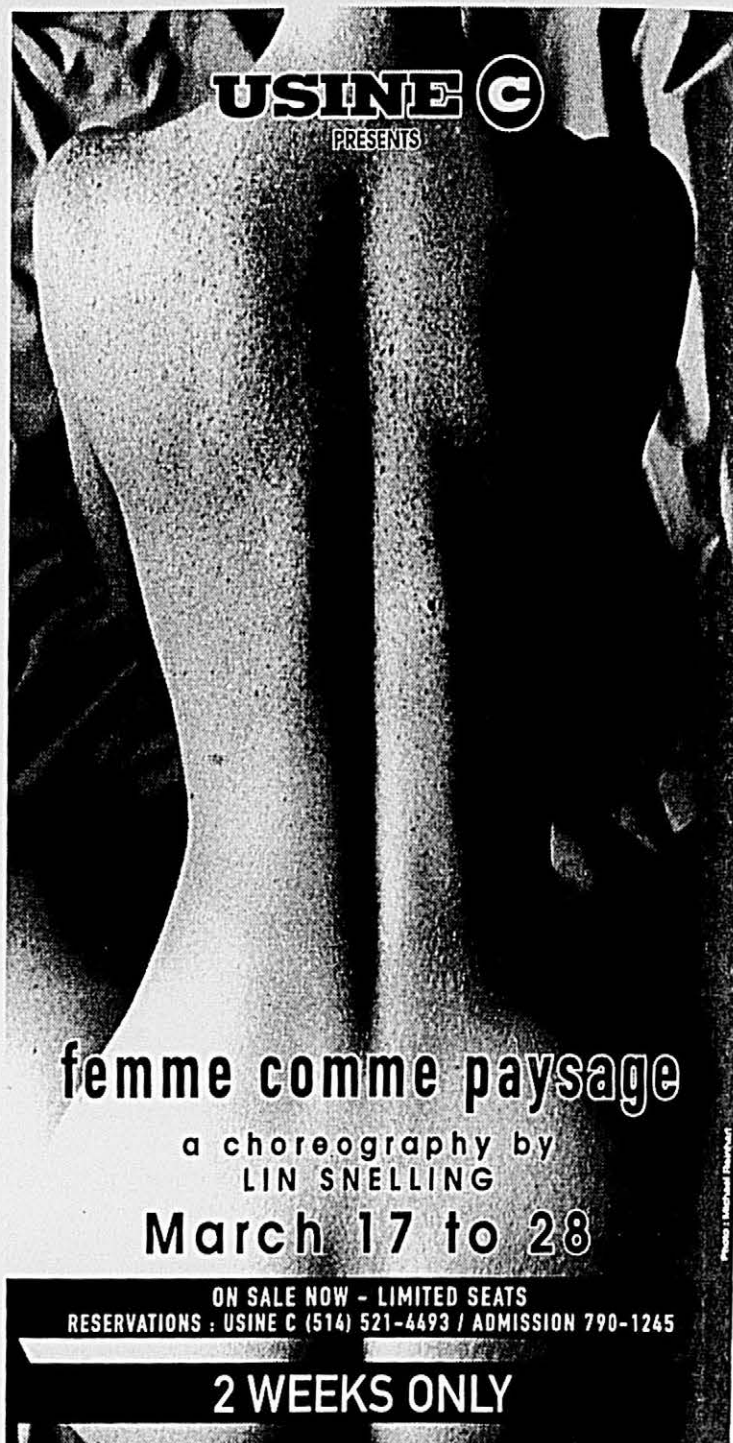
Frans Jozef van Beeck	(Christianity, Loyola University)
Vasudha Narayanan	(Hinduism, University of Florida)
Jamal Elias	(Islam, Amherst College)
Meir Sendor	(Kabbala, Brandeis University)
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The summer school creates an interfaith community that combines academic study with religious engagement and interfaith dialogue. The study of "Mystical Prayer" will be complemented by visits to religious communities, holy sites, pilgrimage, musical evenings and home hospitality, in and around Jerusalem.

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**THE DAILY**  
SNC 1991





# ELECTIONS

for the 1999-2000 McGill Daily Editorial Board will be held **THIS THURSDAY** at 5:30. ALL POSITIONS ARE OPEN. CANDIDATES MUST BE STAFF MEMBERS. To find out more, call the Daily at 398-6784 or stop by the office, Shatner B-03.

join the daily, save the world

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## Letter to the Editor

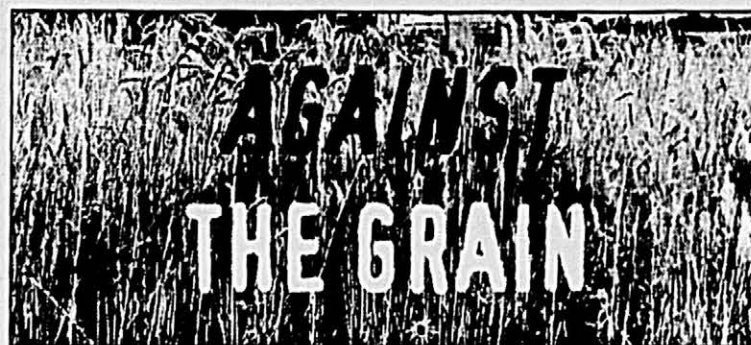
As far as I can determine after checking a number of dictionaries the word brainsuckers (McGill Daily Cover, March 11) is original. You should submit it to the Oxford Dictionary of the English language as a metaphor for those that would destroy our individuality.

Respectfully,  
David S. Rovins

letters to the editor should be no more than 300 words. please fax or drop off your letters to the office.

## Erratum

In the March 15 News Issue, the front cover story by Jason Chow, "New SSMU Executive Chosen, MSF Passes," incorrectly stated that Tamana Kochar "plans to run again for the 2000-2001 season." Kochar did not indicate an intention to run in 2000-2001 as reported. She has served three years with SSMU and one year on the SSMU Council.



## Truth in Guatemala

"The Cold War was messy and bloody. We didn't always acquit ourselves as well as we might have wished. But if the military repression in Guatemala was 'violent and widespread,' that's only because communism was violent and widespread," argued Christopher Caldwell in a column that appeared first in The Wall Street Journal and subsequently in The Globe And Mail.

Caldwell's column refers mainly to the recently released Truth Commission on Guatemala, and US President Bill Clinton's related apology to Guatemalan President Alvaro Arzu for the American role in anti-communist, counterinsurgency groups during the Cold War.

Caldwell asserts that such apologies are both empty words and, more importantly, unwarranted.

"He [Clinton] gets to say those pretty words, and he gets to live in a world in which communism has been vanquished - due in part to the ugly paramilitary counterinsurgencies that the United States sponsored."

I agree with Caldwell that Clinton's words are an easy way for a beleaguered President to gain positive media attention for his so-called support for humanitarianism. By denouncing the sins of his forefathers, while concurrently allowing the deaths of thousands of Iraqi children every month through sanctions and bombing, Clinton's hypocrisy is vivid. And as Caldwell correctly points out, "As with the 'apology' he made for slavery in Uganda two years ago, Mr. Clinton didn't say he was 'sorry.' He merely said the United States had been 'wrong.' Reporters travelling with him in Africa said he avoided the word 'sorry' on the lawyerly advice that it might leave the United States liable for reparations under international law."

However, on all other accounts Caldwell is either a pernicious liar, oblivious to all things humane, or a flagrantly ignorant person in regards to all things comprising reality.

The Commission for Historical Clarification (CEH), the truth commission to which Caldwell is so diametrically opposed, clarifies innumerable reasons as to why the supposed attacks against communists were in fact completely unjustifiable mass murders of civil-

ians.

The CEH, established through the Accord of Oslo on June 23, 1994, "in order to clarify with objectivity, equity and impartiality, the human

BY  
JEFF  
WEBBER

rights violations and acts of violence connected with the armed confrontation that caused suffering among the Guatemalan people," has based its claims on a wide array of sources.

As the writers of the commission point out, "We received thousands of testimonies; we accompanied the survivors at such moving moments as the exhumation of their loved ones from clandestine cemeteries; we listened to former heads of State and the high command of both the Army and the guerillas; we read thousands of pages of documents received from a full range of civil society's organizations. The Commission's Report has considered all the versions and takes into account what we have heard, seen and read regarding the many atrocities and brutalities."

Their findings were horrific, though not surprising to anyone versed in US intervention in Latin America historically. From the outbreak of the internal armed confrontation in 1962 until the end of fighting in 1996 a total of 200,000 persons were killed or disappeared. The CEH study dealt with a total of 42,275 of those victims. Of these, the commission found that 23,671 were victims of arbitrary execution and 6,159 were victims of forced disappearance. Eighty-three percent of the victims covered in the CEH study were Mayan, leading them to the obvious conclusion that much of the US-backed state terrorism was based on racist assumptions dating back to the colonial period, rather than the pretense of anti-communism under which they operated.

If we were to take at face value, Caldwell's argument that counterinsurgencies were justified because of "widespread communism" then it would seem more than ironic that of the total human rights violations documented by the CEH, 93% were perpetrated by the "anti-Communist" Guatemalan state, and only 3% by guerillas.

The commission argues that, "In the case of Guatemala, [US] military assistance was directed towards reinforcing the national intelligence apparatus and for training the officer corps in counterinsurgency techniques, key factors which had significant bearing on human rights violations during the armed confrontation."

Caldwell's ugly darlings, the Guatemalan Army, Civil Patrols, Military Commissioners, and other security forces, were particularly adept at seeing the red in every passerby. Amongst the widespread "communists" were women and children, subjected to "arbitrary execution, forced disappearance, torture, rape and other violations of their fundamental rights."

Furthermore, if Caldwell and his cronies were correct that "communists" were being rooted out, it would seem those whose ethnicity were Mayan had a particular propensity toward Marxism. A vast number of the victims of state terror were Mayan. And as the commission rightly points out, "the identification of Mayan communities with the insurgency was intentionally exaggerated by the State, which, based on traditional racist prejudices, used this identification to eliminate any present or future possibilities of the people providing help for, or joining, an insurgent project."

The other demonic "communists" who suffered at the hands of death squads and security forces were workers, professionals, church members, politicians, peasants, students and academics.

Even those few victims who were Marxist guerillas combatants, were acting within a political environment of state repression, bereft of any institutional mechanisms (ie. political parties, trade unions and so on) for expressing dissent. Certainly the guerillas perpetrated atrocities against civilians but, as the commission points out, relative to state terrorism these acts were miniscule.

The fact that a distortion of history to the extreme of Caldwell's column is permitted to run in The Globe And Mail is ludicrous. The grave injustice done to a huge number of Guatemalan civilians is only perpetuated by such ill-conceived commentary. While truth commissions are inevitably flawed, they can only do good against the lunacy of people such as Caldwell.



## Proposed CKUT-FM Radio McGill Inc. By-Law Amendment

CKUT-Radio-McGill Inc. 90.3FM will convene a special general meeting of its members to debate, discuss and vote on a proposed amendment of Article 28 of the CKUT-Radio McGill Inc. By-Law. The amendment will facilitate future amendments to CKUT-Radio McGill Inc. By-Laws. The meeting will be held Thursday March 18 in Room 425/426 of the Shatner Building, 3480 McTavish, beginning at 4 pm.

**All McGill students are invited to attend!!**

**Food and Drinks will be served!!!**

# Engineering Faculty Turns Ethical

## STAFF AND STUDENTS UNVEIL NEW CODE OF ETHICS CALLED "THE BLUEPRINT"

By JASON CHOW

In a bid to instill "virtues and sound moral principles" within the Engineering profession, the faculty formally launched a newly created code of ethics called "The Blueprint."

The ceremony took place last Wednesday in the lobby of the McConnel Engineering

said Frank Mucciardi, Associate Dean of Students. Schools in the US have similar codes guiding their professional schools. Mucciardi cited the University of North Carolina as a guide to the Blueprint.

While business leaders were on hand for the ceremony,

tant step. He cited the recent International Olympic Committee bribe scandal as one of many recent news stories on ethical misconduct.

"We can say it's only symbolic," said Mucciardi. "Guys will still take bribes. We're not trying to change the world."

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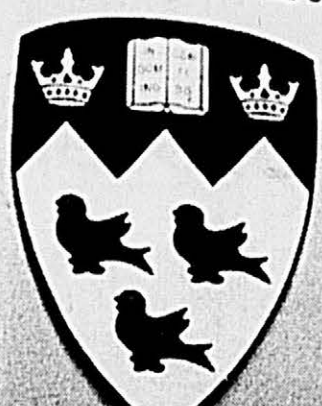


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Building. Students, faculty, and business leaders were present for the unveiling of a plaque that hangs on a wall in the lobby. The Blueprint is a short document, consisting of six ideals stressing academic integrity, honesty, the rights of others, extracurricular activities, and respect of university property.

The code was an initiative that was first suggested by faculty to the students, but the students became keen on formulating it. A committee formed in September 1997 consisting of students, faculty and support staff developed the code into its final draft. A contest was held for suggestions to name the code of ethics last year.

The committee plans to have the code visible on exams, posters, and admissions booklets in order to keep its ideals in the minds of all Engineering students.

"We proposed to the students, then they led and followed through with the idea,

Mucciardi stressed that the Blueprint was strictly a university initiative.

"We brought in corporate speakers to show how ethics play in the corporate world," he said.

Jeff Karp, a member of the committee that drafted the code, said that the process was time-consuming because the group wanted the code as broad and as brief as possible.

"We wanted this to apply to all Engineering students and staff," said Karp. "We brainstormed and picked out what we agreed were the most important ideals."

"Our goal was to keep it as short as possible," added Karp.

While students and staff are invited to sign on to The Blueprint, it is not a binding document. The code does not have any means of enforcement. Rather, it is a symbolic code striving to formalize ethical standards.

But Mucciardi maintains that the Blueprint is still an impor-

Mucciardi saw the Blueprint as a measure for preventing future unethical behaviour.

"We're being proactive, not reactive," he added.

Karp acknowledged that there were already existing codes of conduct for students at McGill but believed that they lacked significance because of their lack of visibility.

"The problem with all the codes is that they're books," said Karp. "Nobody's going to read it."

Similar to Mucciardi, Karp saw the Blueprint as a proactive measure.

"There aren't major problems to address," he said. "We're just trying to provoke thought. If people don't adhere to the code, they won't be punished."

He admitted that the code reiterated common sense, still he felt it was important that it be visible.

"Just because it's obvious doesn't mean you think about [ethics] on a daily basis," he said.





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# CBC in crisis?

The irritation in Mary Lou Finlay's voice was apparent.

The host of *As It Happens*, CBC Radio One's flagship supper hour current affairs programme, was clearly not in a good mood on a recent broadcast. First, she had to continually apologize for technical difficulties owing to the strike by CBC technicians. The telephone interviewees for the evening included Defence Minister Art Eggleton (whose government has severely cut the Corporation's budget while being elected on a platform which includes "stabilizing funding") and Opposition Leader Preston Manning (whose party plans to privatize the CBC television service). Both of the prominent politicians were snapped at by Finlay.

The icing on the cake came in an interview with a bean counter at CBC Newsworld, who had the unfortunate task of explaining to listeners why the Corporation was chopping foreign bureaus in Paris, Cape

Town and Mexico City. The executive tepidly explained that coverage would actually be improved through freelancers with the money saved by shutting down the CBC's overseas TV news operations.

On top of these setbacks, the federal government has recently mandated that the CBC abandon its traditional logo in favour of one which prominently features the Canada insignia used in government advertising. Critics have likened the logo to one that would be used by a state propaganda service.

The sudden barrage of bad news for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation follows years of relative calm. After the austerity budgets brought down by the Liberals since their term

**"This particular Canadian sincerely hopes [the CBC will survive]. I think it depends if the average Canadian will support it. My impression is that younger Canadians are ambivalent towards the CBC, and most of the audience is older. But if they can evolve to fill a national identity function in the modern media, I think they will certainly survive."**

**- Professor Desmond Morton**

have been less evident and upbeat campaigns such as the attempts to completely

"Canadianize" the television networks prime-time schedule and the renaming of the radio services to Radio One for news and Radio Two for music have taken centre stage. With the strike coming at the same time as the CBC's license renewal hearings at the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission, the Corporation is once again a subject for political debate.

**Low Morale at Headquarters**

Things are looking bleak around the CBC's Front Street headquarters in Toronto. An

employee in TV network programming who asked not to be identified told the Daily that staff like herself who are neither unionized nor management don't know who to believe.

"Senior management keeps telling the media that they are negotiating when it looks like they drag their heels until the last minute before doing anything," she said. "The technicians talk about their 45,000 salaries even though when you add in Hockey Night overtime and [the pay for the 1998 Winter Olympics in] Nagano, its more like 80,000. After 30 days [of this strike], the morale around here is just awful."

As of Friday, the Canadian Media Guild had settled with the Corporation, averting a potentially crippling journalists' strike on top of the continuing strike by the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union. Spokesperson Ruth-Ellen Soles said that contingency plans had been in place in the event of a strike by on-air em-

## THE DAILY QUESTION:



PHOTO BY CÉLINE HEINBECKER

Dan Ryan  
U2 Management

"It's a way to unite the country and really the only national station with everyone's interests in mind. It's not really based in Toronto like CTV."



PHOTO BY CÉLINE HEINBECKER

Gemma Peralta  
U2 Political Science

"It's really important to me. The whole Just for Laughs thing and the Royal Canadian Air Farce are great, and I love their comprehensive coverage of Canadian and international news. It's too bad about what the strike has done to The National though."



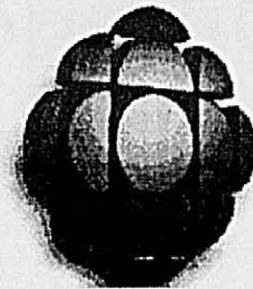
PHOTO BY CÉLINE HEINBECKER

Katherine Wieckowski  
U0 Science

"To me the CBC is something that represents all Canadians. I think it's very important because it gives Canadian artists a chance to express themselves. It also lets Canadian content get on to television, because everything from the States is coming up here and it's just clogging up the airwaves."



# BAD NEWS KEEPS PILING UP FOR CANADA'S NATIONAL BROADCASTER



employees. She also said that the CBC had tabled an offer to the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union and that the two parties were negotiating at that time. A media blackout prevented Soles from offering any more information, and likewise prevented the union from commenting on the talks.

## CBC in Montreal

Québec divisions of the Corporation have been fortunate, in that the strike has not affected local production. Only the local broadcasts in Quebec and Moncton remain unaffected by the strike because the French language broadcaster Radio-Canada technicians are not in the CEP Union.

However, Montreal is not immune from a problem which affects many of the country's local television news programmes. With constant cutbacks and generally low ratings in comparison to their private sector counter-

parts, the TV newscasts are a target for criticism. Gazette columnist Mike Boone, while complementing the quality of the newscasts, has said that Newswatch's perennially poor ratings are due to strikes in the early 1980s that drove audiences over to rival CFCF 12 Pulse News. When asked about such criticisms of Newswatch, executive producer Tony Ross was irate.

"Don't believe what you read in The Gazette. We are not last in this market, though we are considerably behind CFCF. We do much better than Global."

Gino Apponi, executive in charge of regional news at the Toronto headquarters said that the local newscasts have performed admirably given the budget restraints with which they have had to cope.

"Our supper hour newscasts have 40% of the budget they used to. They've been redesigned, and right now our priority is stability."

## The Corpse in decline?

The question that continually plagues the Corpse, as the CBC critics label it, is its potential for survival in a crowded marketplace. However, Professor Desmond Morton at the McGill Centre for the Study of Canada said that rumors of the CBC's death are premature.

"It's a changing market with more and more forms of entertainment. Whereas in the 1950's, just about the only choice was between CBC in English or French, now we are bombarded with choices."

"This particular Canadian sincerely hopes [the CBC will survive]. I think it depends if the average Canadian will support it. My impression is that younger Canadians are ambivalent towards the CBC, and most of the audience is older. But if they can evolve to fill a national identity function in the modern media, I think they will certainly survive."

The current strike will even-

tually be resolved, but long term questions remain about our national broadcaster. Is the Corporation capable of meeting the needs of a country that may not know just what its needs are? Management is attempting to launch a "Radio Three" network to appeal to youth, and the broadcaster is awaiting the result of the current license renewal with the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission to expand its internet presence. Spurred by the recent removal of reporter Terry Milewski from the APEC story following a complaint from the Prime Minister's Office, politics may be play a deciding role in the Corporation's future.

In the next few months, Jean Chretien himself will choose the next president of the Corporation. Similar state-owned broadcasters such as the BBC choose their leaders independently though political pressures are the same world over. Current president Perrin Beatty's vision may be radically altered

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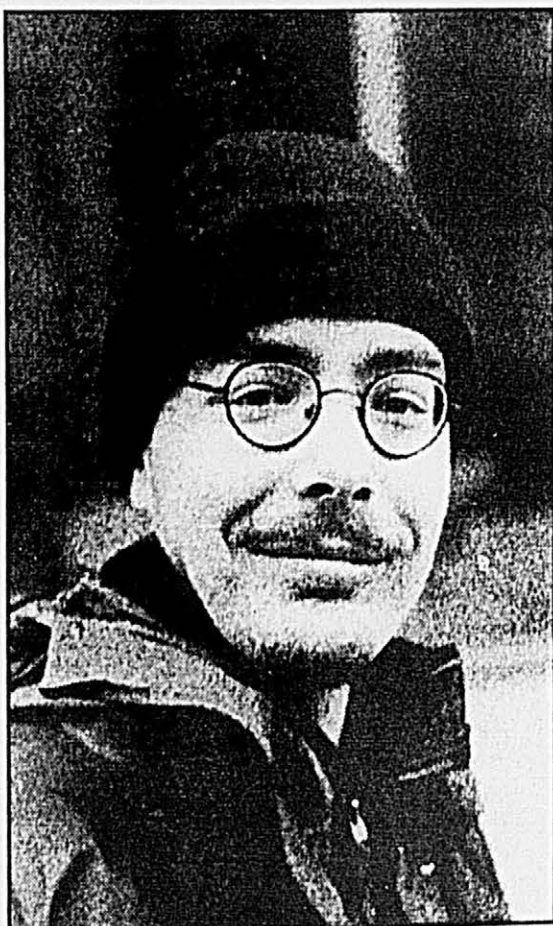


PHOTO BY CÉLINE HEINBECKER

Robert Nowak  
Master's 4th year, Physics  
International student

"It's not too good. I come from Britain, and I'm accustomed to the BBC, which is also a state-run TV and radio company, and I think it's one of the best in the world. Maybe that sounds a bit arrogant, but that's my opinion. I don't really think the CBC comes up to that standard. I wish it would, because I think it's modeled after the BBC."

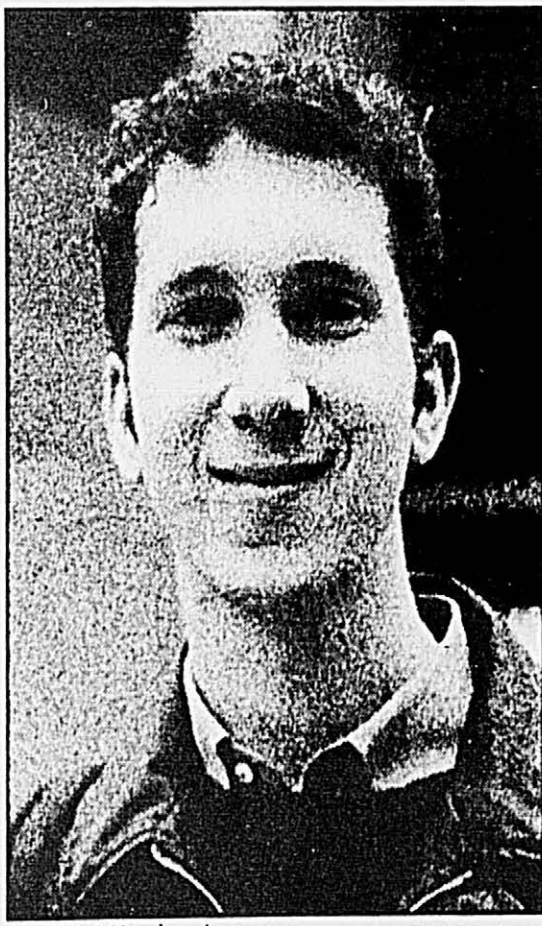


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# CBC in crisis?

The irritation in Mary Lou Finlay's voice was apparent.

The host of *As It Happens*, CBC Radio One's flagship supper hour current affairs programme, was clearly not in a good mood on a recent broadcast. First, she had to continually apologize for technical difficulties owing to the strike by CBC technicians. The telephone interviewees for the evening included Defence Minister Art Eggleton (whose government has severely cut the Corporation's budget while being elected on a platform which includes "stabilizing funding") and Opposition Leader Preston Manning (whose party plans to privatize the CBC television service). Both of the prominent politicians were snapped at by Finlay.

The icing on the cake came in an interview with a bean counter at CBC Newsworld, who had the unfortunate task of explaining to listeners why the Corporation was chopping foreign bureaus in Paris, Cape

Town and Mexico City. The executive tepidly explained that coverage would actually be improved through freelancers with the money saved by shutting down the CBC's overseas TV news operations.

On top of these setbacks, the federal government has recently mandated that the CBC abandon its traditional logo in favour of one which prominently features the Canada insignia used in government advertising. Critics have likened the logo to one that would be used by a state propaganda service.

The sudden barrage of bad news for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation follows years of relative calm. After the austerity budgets brought down by the Liberals since their term

**"This particular Canadian sincerely hopes [the CBC will survive]. I think it depends if the average Canadian will support it. My impression is that younger Canadians are ambivalent towards the CBC, and most of the audience is older. But if they can evolve to fill a national identity function in the modern media, I think they will certainly survive."**

**- Professor Desmond Morton**

have been less evident and upbeat campaigns such as the attempts to completely

"Canadianize" the television networks prime-time schedule and the renaming of the radio services to Radio One for news and Radio

Two for music have taken centre stage. With the strike coming at the same time as the CBC's license renewal hearings at the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission, the Corporation is once again a subject for political debate.

**Low Morale at Headquarters**

Things are looking bleak around the CBC's Front Street headquarters in Toronto. An

employee in TV network programming who asked not to be identified told the Daily that staff like herself who are neither unionized nor management don't know who to believe.

"Senior management keeps telling the media that they are negotiating when it looks like they drag their heels until the last minute before doing anything," she said. "The technicians talk about their 45,000 salaries even though when you add in Hockey Night overtime and [the pay for the 1998 Winter Olympics in] Nagano, its more like 80,000. After 30 days [of this strike], the morale around here is just awful."

As of Friday, the Canadian Media Guild had settled with the Corporation, averting a potentially crippling journalists' strike on top of the continuing strike by the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union. Spokesperson Ruth-Ellen Soles said that contingency plans had been in place in the event of a strike by on-air em-

## THE DAILY QUESTION:



PHOTO BY CÉLINE HEINBECKER

Dan Ryan  
U2 Management

"It's a way to unite the country and really the only national station with everyone's interests in mind. It's not really based in Toronto like CTV."



PHOTO BY CÉLINE HEINBECKER

Gemma Peralta  
U2 Political Science

"It's really important to me. The whole Just for Laughs thing and the Royal Canadian Air Farce are great, and I love their comprehensive coverage of Canadian and international news. It's too bad about what the strike has done to The National though."



PHOTO BY CÉLINE HEINBECKER

Katherine Wieckowski  
UO Science

"To me the CBC is something that represents all Canadians. I think it's very important because it gives Canadian artists a chance to express themselves. It also lets Canadian content get on to television, because everything from the States is coming up here and it's just clogging up the airwaves."



# BAD NEWS KEEPS PILING UP FOR CANADA'S NATIONAL BROADCASTER



employees. She also said that the CBC had tabled an offer to the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union and that the two parties were negotiating at that time. A media blackout prevented Soles from offering any more information, and likewise prevented the union from commenting on the talks.

## CBC in Montreal

Québec divisions of the Corporation have been fortunate, in that the strike has not affected local production. Only the local broadcasts in Quebec and Moncton remain unaffected by the strike because the French language broadcaster Radio-Canada technicians are not in the CEP Union.

However, Montreal is not immune from a problem which affects many of the country's local television news programmes. With constant cutbacks and generally low ratings in comparison to their private sector counter-

parts, the TV newscasts are a target for criticism. Gazette columnist Mike Boone, while complementing the quality of the newscasts, has said that Newswatch's perennially poor ratings are due to strikes in the early 1980s that drove audiences over to rival CFCF 12 Pulse News. When asked about such criticisms of Newswatch, executive producer Tony Ross was irate.

"Don't believe what you read in The Gazette. We are not last in this market, though we are considerably behind CFCF. We do much better than Global."

Gino Apponi, executive in charge of regional news at the Toronto headquarters said that the local newscasts have performed admirably given the budget restraints with which they have had to cope.

"Our supper hour newscasts have 40% of the budget they used to. They've been redesigned, and right now our priority is stability."

## The Corpse in decline?

The question that continually plagues the Corpse, as the CBC critics label it, is its potential for survival in a crowded marketplace. However, Professor Desmond Morton at the McGill Centre for the Study of Canada said that rumors of the CBC's death are premature.

"It's a changing market with more and more forms of entertainment. Whereas in the 1950's, just about the only choice was between CBC in English or French, now we are bombarded with choices."

"This particular Canadian sincerely hopes [the CBC will survive]. I think it depends if the average Canadian will support it. My impression is that younger Canadians are ambivalent towards the CBC, and most of the audience is older. But if they can evolve to fill a national identity function in the modern media, I think they will certainly survive."

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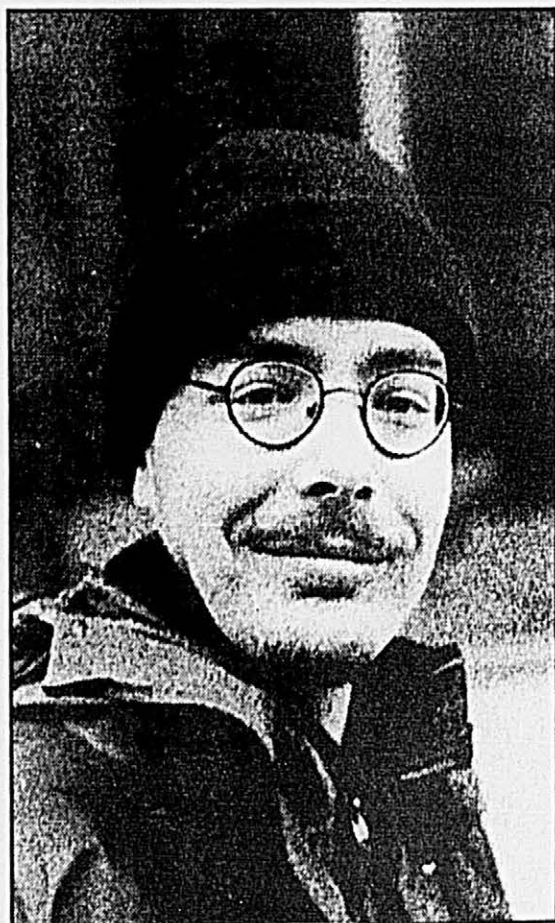


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# Ontario Universities Face Doubled Enrolment

BY KATE

HEARTFIELD

OTTAWA (CUP) - Ontario universities are pressuring the province for special funding to help them cope with a huge influx of students expected in 2003, when Ontario's optional fifth year of high school will be eliminated.

In 2003, two high school classes will graduate at once, creating the phenomenon known as the "double cohort."

Between 40,000 and 50,000 additional students will graduate in Ontario in 2003, says Jean-Michel Beillard, the University of Ottawa's vice-rector of university relations and development. This number is roughly equal to the populations of the U of O and Carleton University combined.

Beillard predicts about 4,000 of these students will apply to the U of O - a number that has him concerned.

"We're not a university that has a lot of space," he said. "We're looking at building, or renovating, or both, and we cannot do that if we don't have money."

Henri Wong, U of O registrar, says he believes the double cohort will force the province's Progressive Conservative government to give more money to the affected universities.

"We are under the impression that the Ontario government will announce a plan, hopefully before the next election," he said. Premier Mike Harris is expected to announce a spring election within the next couple weeks.

The U of O is studying the expected influx of students and has sent a representative to a special task force of the Ontario Council of Universities, Wong said. The council is advising the Ministry of Education on the needs created by the change.

Education Ministry spokesman David Ross said it's important to know exactly how Ontario universities will be affected by the change before taking any action. The ministry is looking into how many students will go to other provinces or to community col-

leges, how many will enter the job market and how many faculty members will be needed to cope with the change.

Ross added that since high school students affected by the change have the choice of graduating in three or five years, the flood of students may not happen all at once.

But Joel Harden, Ontario chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students, says the ministry should take immediate action on the issue.

"Pretty soon the bookshelves of the ministry are going to fall down because we have so much research, but we have an abandonment of effort," he said. "There's an abundance of proof already that we need funding."

Wong agrees that the issue must be dealt with soon. "We're at the stage where everyone is trying to grapple with the numbers, [but] if we need buildings, it will have to be started right now," he said.

# Biotech Action Montréal Calls for Tighter Industry Regulation

(continued from front page)  
participants voiced concerns about not knowing what it is that they are eating and feeding their children. As one woman from the audience put it, it's no different than the public experiment with Thalidomide in the 60's. Women were encouraged to use the drug to quell morning sickness which resulted in major birth defects. As in the past, there are now products and chemicals being introduced for public consumption with little testing or public consultation.

## "20 Years of Indoctrination"

Isabelle Naryana, one of the panel speakers and a McGill alumni,

talked of a public indoctrination of the benevolence of technology, and the formation of a "laissez faire" attitude toward corporate meanderings in the biotech industry.

"It starts in grade school," she said, with the idea of "Old MacDonald" hobby farms, masking the truth of high production agro business. When Naryana attended agriculture college, the dairy industry was vaunted as self-sustaining and profitable, whereas the reality of massive

government subsidies became apparent only with investigation.

In university, she remembered the biotechnology companies supplying the teaching materials for her courses. "All the yield graphs displaying the productivity of various fertilizers were supplied, without question, by the fertilizer companies themselves," she said.

What Ms Naryana sees as the biggest problem is "genetic erosion." This has been occurring for the last hundred years, and it's basically the elimination of many indigenous species completely from the picture.

"When all these high resistance crops were introduced to the third world with the green revolution, the people in these countries literally turned all their old stocks of wheat into porridge and ate it," she said.

The long history of breeding specialized crops to deal with specific situations was lost within a few years and replaced with a few engineered crops and their accompanying chemicals. In the history of agriculture, there have been many instances of breeding different varieties of wheat to come up with something that will live through drought situations or a pest attack. With the elimination

of many of these species we are also eliminating our potential resources when the remaining species come under threat. Experts also have no idea of what form new pests or viruses will come in, and having that genetic pool to draw from is very important. Despite this, and in line with their nonexistent policy towards GM (genetically modified) foods, the Canadian Department of Agriculture recently closed its seed banks, further limiting the genetic diversity in our country.

Was the discussion a success? Amanda Sheedy, one of the main organizers pointed out that a meeting of minds between the public and scientists needs to happen to strengthen the voice against blind genetic modification.

For her, "in those terms, it was a success," she said. "A lot of the questions that the audience posed were directed at the corporations, some of which our panel of independent scientists couldn't address. The people want accountability. More panel discussions are coming, though, and we are sending the invitations to the corporations."

For more information call QPIRG at 398-7432.

# Inefficiency in eastern universities

BY AMANDA

LABONTE

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) - A recent National Post article could give Canadians an incorrect impression about Memorial University of Newfoundland, university faculty say.

Both Memorial University president Art May and economics professor Wade Locke say the article that appeared in the newspaper March 12 is misleading.

The article reported on a study, conducted by two University of Alberta professors, that measured the efficiency of 45 Canadian schools after grading them in nine categories.

Memorial tied with Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia and Laurentian University in Ontario for most inefficient.

Melville McMillan, one of the report's authors, says efficiency was measured by comparing a university's output - the number of students who graduate in four years and the number of grants and research dollars faculty bring in - with its input, the resources put into running the university.

The report was published in the December 1998 issue of the journal Canadian Public Policy.

In its March 12 article, the Post reported that while most Canadian universities operate at "uniformly high levels of efficiency," Memorial University lagged significantly behind the national average.

McMillan says while the most efficient schools got scores of 100 per cent, Memorial scored between 55 and 77 per cent.

But Locke says the Post article could give readers the wrong idea about the school. "People reading that story could get the impression that MUN is somehow wasting resources and that would not necessarily be a legitimate inference to draw from that particular story."

Locke says the real issue is how to define the output of a post-secondary institute. Until that is done, he says, it is very difficult to measure efficiency.

"The university may have broader social goals that it's trying to achieve. So the real issue is: How are we meeting those goals and how much are we add-

ing in terms of the educational process of the students we get?" he said.

"If at the end of the day the... increase in educational attainment of the student is high, relative to the resources that go into it, then that constitutes an efficient use of the resources here," Locke added.

McMillan admits the measures of output he used in the report are not as good as he would have liked.

"What we would like to have are things like how much learning goes on and actually how much research is done and the quality of the research and all this kind of stuff," said McMillan. "But lacking any better data, this is what we're using."

McMillan says he wasn't singling out Memorial, adding a possible reason it ranked lower in the study is because of its isolation as the only university in the province.

"The university is probably expected to provide a broad range of programs and at the same time it doesn't have a huge student population, so that might result in the fact that there are some extra costs involved."

Still, an article of this kind at a national level could have an impact on the way Memorial is perceived, May said.

"[Readers] remember the headline - there was a story in The National Post about inefficient universities and Memorial was one of them," May said. "That's what you remember."

(continued from front page)

Holding a megaphone and promoting the group's message, Diana Hansen was pleased with the response from the passing students.

"It's been pretty good," said Hansen. "If you beg, it works."

Another promoter of the event, Marie Fennel, felt that the weather only furthered the cause.

When asked about how the campers would deal with the cold temperature, Fennel responded, "I guess some people don't have the choice."



# CFS Demands Inquiry for Aboriginal's Death

March 17, 1999 marked what would be the 42nd birthday of Anthony O'Brien "Dudley" George. Rather, the day passed as a moment of remembrance. Dudley George was killed on the night of September 6, 1995, while defending traditional Aazhooonian burial grounds at Ipperwash Park, Ontario.

Last week, the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) sent a statement to the federal government reiterating its call to launch an inquiry into the death of Dudley George.

"An innocent man has died and justice has to be done," said Jennifer Story, National Deputy Chairperson of the CFS. "Students are determined to push the Minister of Indian Affairs, Jane Stewart, to fulfill her responsibility to Aboriginal peoples and Canadians by providing clear answers on an ambiguous death," continued Story.

"The minister must reconsider her position that Ottawa has no responsibility for the death, the wounds and the detention of unarmed First Nations citizens," explained Charlene Green, Aboriginal National Executive Representative of the Federation. Green

continued: "Clearly, this is a matter of federal jurisdiction as Ottawa has a 'fiduciary' responsibility for Aboriginal Peoples and human rights."

Premier Harris will not launch a public inquiry because he fears it may overlap or interfere with civil litigation, while the Federal government is denying its responsibilities entirely. "Unfortunately there might not be another option but to take this issue to the international level," added Green.

The Federation first made a call for an inquiry by adopting a motion to that effect at its November 1998 General Meeting. The Federation also participated at a press conference organized by the Coalition for a Public Inquiry into the Death of Dudley George on December 10, 1998 - the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

"Enough people [have] suffered. The federal government has the duty to call a public inquiry into the tragic human rights violations which occurred at Ipperwash Park in 1995 and to the Aazhooonian people since 1942," concluded Green.

# Debating PC

## HAS POLITICAL CORRECTNESS REACHED ITS LIMIT?

This afternoon from 3:00pm to 5:00pm, a conference will be taking place on political correctness in society and in academia. The title of the presentation is "Beyond political correctness: A panel discussion on issues of ethnic and racial inclusion in the Canadian academe."

The talk is intended to "discuss various dimensions of academic life," according to the conference's moderator, Professor Morton Weinfeld, a Sociology professor at McGill and also affiliated with the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada (MISC).

"Some of [the discussion] will include a debate on political correctness, but we hope to move beyond that and have an honest and open discussion on ... various issues."

"The event is sponsored by Canadian Ethics Studies," Weinfeld added. "I helped find the speakers, and came up with some of the ideas."

The event is scheduled to coincide with the United Nations Day Against Racism and Racial Discrimination, March 21. "Every year we sponsor an event at this time," Weinfeld said.

In relation to this, one of the topics that will be discussed is the racial makeup of different strata of the

academe.

All the speakers are quite familiar with campus life as it relates to equality for various minorities; I'm sure one of the topics that will come up is the issue of equal representation, both in the student body and in faculty and school staff," Weinfeld said.

The discussion is taking place in the Leacock Building, Room 232. The panel includes Nathalie Cooke,

McGill, on *Food for thought: Writers as cultural caterers*; Enoch Padolsky, Carleton University, on *Making Canadian literature inclusive*; Richard Janda, McGill, on *Commitment to issues of equity*; George S. Dei, Ontario Institute for the Study of Education, on *Strategies for anti-racism change and the academe*. Admission is free and all members of the public are welcome.

### New Israel Fund

הקן החדשה לישראל

New Israel Fund of Canada

### ARTHUR MINDEN LEADERSHIP AWARD

To commemorate the life of Arthur Minden (1910-1966) and continue his passion for Israel, the Minden family, through the New Israel Fund of Canada, has established an annual award for an enterprising Canadian graduate or young professional. The applicant should demonstrate qualities of leadership and a commitment to building democracy and social justice in Israel.

The Fellow will serve as a professional intern with an Israeli grassroots organization in one of the following areas: safeguarding civil and human rights, promoting Jewish-Arab equality and coexistence, advancing the status of women, fostering tolerance and religious pluralism, bridging social and economic gaps, or pursuing environmental justice. The fellowship includes a \$5,000 stipend for living expenses.

Qualifications include: a commitment to building democracy and social justice in Israel through grassroots social change, conversational fluency in Hebrew or a readiness to learn, writing skills, volunteer or professional experience in one of the above issue areas and Canadian citizenship. Those with a background in the arts are also encouraged to apply.

Applications are due April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1999. Contact Minda Davis, Director, New Israel Fund of Canada, at (416) 781-4322 or [nifc@yesic.com](mailto:nifc@yesic.com)




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# PGSS Elections 1999

PGSS Elections are being conducted by mail ballot.  
Check your home mailbox for these important documents!

**VOTE!!!**

## Contested Candidates



**VOTE**  
**Nadia Cervoni**  
**for**  
**PGSS**  
**Internal Affairs**  
**Co-ordinator**

**and**

MEET PEOPLE-jazz/blues evenings

DISCOVER NEW TALENTS - painting and drawing classes

GET IN SHAPE - kickboxing and yoga!

DISPLAY YOUR TALENTS - comedy night, battle of the bands

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**Dynamic**, fun-loving individual seeks support of graduate students interested in improving social life at McGill! Proven 2-yr record with Internal Affairs included helping bring 007 Martini Night, the Titanic Party, Viva Las Vegas, & Halloween '98, to you and guarantees to make great parties a Thomson House trademark! Will spice things up with brand new, exciting classes (think swing, power yoga, self defense...) and clubs (book, outdoor adventure, chocolate lovers clubs...) at Thomson House. Only those serious about having fun need apply! So, for a good time, vote...

**Kelly Davison**



**PGSS Internal Affairs  
Coordinator**

## Uncontested Candidates



**Stephen Déry**

Bonjour! Hello! I have the pleasure of running for the position of University and Academic Affairs Coordinator. My past experience as Doctoral Senator and as a member of several PGSS committees will insure leadership in this position if you choose to elect me. Please make sure you vote! Thank you. Merci.

**ASAD KHAN**

**for PGSS Representative to  
the Board of Governors**

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  - Job opportunities,
  - Co-op programs,
  - Reduce student debt,
  - Scholarships,
  - Research funding,
  - Prioritize AGSEM issues.

As McGill Senate representative I have worked to establish scholarships, reduce student debt, increase career placement.

**Vote: ASAD, PGSS representative to  
Board of Governors.**



Hello, my name is Rakesh Khanra. As your Masters Senator I will work hard to ensure that your opinions are clearly represented. Furthermore, I will lobby the administration to increase the resources available to Post-Graduate students.

For further information please contact me at [rvkhanna@yahoo.com](mailto:rvkhanna@yahoo.com)

Until then, thanks and best wishes.



**Jonathan  
Salsberg**

**For  
Financial Affairs  
Co-ordinator**

✓ As graduate students, we pay a lot of money into our student society's coffers. My primary goal as financial affairs co-ordinator will be to assure that this money is wisely managed and stretched so as to provide the most comprehensive range of services to you, the McGill graduate population.

✓ During the next year, the government will continue to redefine its policy regarding graduate students in Quebec. I will ensure that we are fully represented in this process, and that our concerns about tuition and coverage are heard.



## daily classifieds

Ads may be placed through the Daily Business Office, Room B-07, University Centre, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication. McGill Students & Staff (with valid ID): \$4.75 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$4.25 per day. General Public: \$6.00 per day, or \$5.00 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. Extra charges may apply, prices include applicable GST or PST. Full payment should accompany your advertising order and may be made in cash or by personal cheque (for amounts over \$20 only). For more information, please visit our office or call 398-6790. WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD CAREFULLY WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE PAPER. The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damages due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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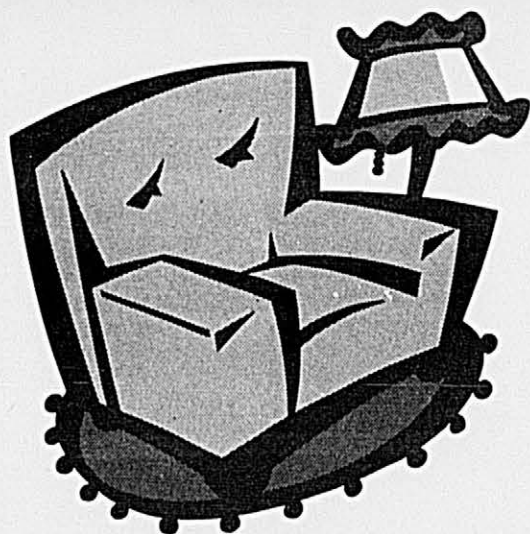
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